



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

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Contact: Stephanie Lundberg
Phone: 202-225-5506

Kind Recognizes National Adoption Awareness Month

Special Needs and Older Children Face Greater Challenges in Finding Permanent Homes

Washington, DC – In recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month (November), U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) will display two foster youths' photographs in his Washington, DC office from November 1st-10th. The two youths to be featured, Blake and Hunter, are brothers from western Wisconsin and both special needs children who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

"All children are deserving of a permanent caring family, no matter what their age or situation," Rep. Kind stated. "With so many children still awaiting adoption, it is vital that we do what we can to place them in permanent homes to be raised in loving, caring families."

Currently, thousands of children, many with special needs like Blake and Hunter, are waiting for a permanent adoptive home. Kids with special needs and older children tend to wait longer in foster care or pre-adoptive homes. On average, these children wait over two years before they are finally adopted, and once a child reaches the age of nine, the probability that the child will wait indefinitely for an adoptive family exceeds the probability that he or she will be adopted.

Executive Director of Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, Colleen M. Ellingson added, "One young lady who was adopted at age 17 summed it up perfectly. 'Everyone asked why I wanted to be adopted since I would be an adult in less than two years. Adoption is not just about now; it is about the rest of my life.' That's what these efforts can give waiting children."

Rep. Kind is a cosponsor of legislation (HR 4092) to help older children find adoptive families. The Adopt Act would provide families who adopt older children an additional \$2,000 tax credit in the years following an adoption. Under current law, adoptive families receive an initial tax credit of \$10,000 for the year of the adoption. However, current law does not assist with the additional financial commitment associated with adopting older children.

If you would like more information about Blake and Hunter or child adoption in general, you may contact the Adoption Resources of Wisconsin at 800-762-8063. (www.wiadopt.com). Adoption information is also available through the Western office of the Wisconsin Dept. of Health & Family Services, Division of Children & Family Services Offices, (715) 836-3399.